



MATWATCH

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Doctor Names McMahon as Purchaser

ZAHORIAN CONVICTED ON 12 COUNTS;

WRESTLERS TESTIFY OF STEROID USE

By STEVE BEVERLY
MATWATCH Editor/Publisher

HARRISBURG PA---Pennsylvania urological surgeon George T. Zahorian II--a man who in the last week has taken pro wrestling from the entertainment pages to the legal briefs---was convicted on 12 of 16 counts of illegal sale of anabolic steroids, including four to active wrestlers.

MATWATCH Anniversary

THANKS FOR THREE GREAT MAT YEARS

With this issue, we cross the bridge into our fourth year of publication.

For those of you who have been with us from the beginning, it is still amazing to think of how the landscape of the wrestling industry has changed, just since 1988. And, with it, the inevitability of how the volume of mat newsletters has changed.

At last glance, 53 ring bulletins are available. For the reader, that's good because it provides many choices. In other ways, the increase has crowded the market to the extent that it becomes a terribly difficult task to be original or different.

We continue to strive to bring you the best analysis possible of the TV side of pro wrestling, along with its breaking stories.

It is my pledge to continue to give the best we can give until we see we cannot provide you with the quality you expect.

Thank you for your support, your kindnesses and even your negative mail. It is only through these elements we can become better.

STEVE BEVERLY

Zahorian, who will be sentenced in August, was found not guilty on four other charges of illegal possession of controlled substances, including two on the day his office was raided by federal authorities last year. The four-day trial was capped by the Thursday testimony of former WWF world champion Superstar Billy Graham and Zahorian telling the U.S. District Court jury World Wrestling Federation owner Vincent K. McMahon Jr. "has bought steroids" previously from the physician.

The doctor will face a maximum of 44 years in prison, according to the Associated Press (though other published reports indicate 36 years as the peak jail term), a \$3 million fine and the state of Pennsylvania will repossess Zahorian's office and its contents. Not specified in the penalties is whether Zahorian's medical license will be revoked but that procedure will be handled by the Pennsylvania state medical board.

A 17th count, acknowledged by THE NEW YORK TIMES as a charge of selling steroids to three-time WWF world champion Hulk Hogan, was dropped three days before the trial after legal maneuverings by Hogan's attorney, Jerry McDevitt, to keep Hogan off the stand. But McMahon pulled Hogan from all WWF cards the weekend before and during the days of the trial. Hogan was scheduled to return to action last Friday night.

The WWF's Roddy Piper, former WWF "Model" and one-time AWA world champion Rick Martel, UWF wrestler/booker B. Brian Blair (another former WWF "Killer Bee") and WCW/All-Japan star Danny Spivey (once a WWF tag partner with Mike Rotundo) all testified Tuesday. The four told of buying steroids from Zahorian from 1988-1990 and all admitted using steroids prior to those years.

According to testimony, the procedure had wrestlers receiving steroids in Federal Express overnight packages after calling in orders to Zahorian's office. Spivey admitted taking the steroids deca, anabar and anadron. Over a one-week period, Spivey told of taking steroids over what is known as a "stack" cycle of eight weeks, including 4 cubic centimeters a week of deca, 2 cc of testosterone and six to ten

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IS FLAIR BEING SHOVED ASIDE???

ATLANTA---While awaiting an anticipated WCW world title change in two weeks, a behind-the-scenes scenario was developing at deadline which could have seen Ric Flair drop the belt this past Monday night in Macon GA.

While some insiders were warning the episode could be a ploy to fool newsletter writers, others insist the pot is boiling between Flair and WCW booker Dusty Rhodes.

Just two weeks ago, when story first surfaced that Rhodes was

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ten tablets a day of anabars. When asked who advised him to take the steroids, Spivey said, "I advised myself, no one else did." The other three answered similarly. Asked if he felt steroids were necessary to enhance his career (which languished in the mid-'80s as Jim Crockett's Starship Eagle and later in a preliminary spot in the WWF before joining WCW on an on-off basis in 1989, shortly after Ted Turner's buyout of Crockett's NWA), Spivey said: "Yes, I felt I did."

Piper, said by many media observers to be the most casual and relaxed of the four Tuesday ring witnesses, said Zahorian had offered him steroids "without tests." The current co-host of the WWF's SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING was the most celebrated of the four Tuesday witnesses and a chorus of reporters and an estimated 200 onlookers awaited Piper's arrival. Reports circulated Monday Piper's attorneys were attempting to negotiate a similar deal to the one which freed Hulk Hogan from testifying, despite THE NEW YORK TIMES' naming Hogan as one of the five receiving steroids from Zahorian.

Piper and Martel both said they first met Zahorian in 1981, around the time Piper was primarily working for the Jim Barnett-Ole Anderson Georgia Championship Wrestling and Crockett Promotions in the Carolinas, along with Don Owen's Portland group. He occasionally made forays to Madison Square Garden for a guest WWF appearance in the early '80s. Spivey testified he first met Zahorian in 1984 when he was working in a preliminary status for the WWF and Blair said his first contact came in 1985, shortly after leaving Florida for Titan Sports. In a Miami Herald column by Alex Marvez last week, former WWF champion Bruno Sammartino said, "I laughed when I read he's (Zahorian's) only being tried for the years 1988-90. My friends and I used to laugh when a line would form to see him." Spivey somewhat confirmed the story. "There were lines waiting to see him in Allentown or Hershey," said Spivey, "but we all thought all of them were waiting to get physicals." Marvez also reported former Florida and U.S. champion Ed (Wahoo) McDaniel as saying Zahorian was famous among wrestlers: "We heard you could go by his office and get 1,000 tablets of whatever you wanted."

The wrestlers said Zahorian was just known as "the (Pennsylvania) athletic commission doctor." Defense attorney William Costopoulos attempted to portray Zahorian as simply distributing the steroids to the wrestlers "as patients." But Blair, Spivey and Martel all denied being regular patients and Spivey said he felt it was better to "get the steroids from (Zahorian) rather than from a doctor." Martel did say Zahorian had once tested his blood and Piper said he was treated at one time by Zahorian "for stomach problems."

One published report last week linked Piper to receiving steroids from Zahorian in a Federal Express package during the filming of the pilot of the aborted ABC television series TAG TEAM in March of last year.

At no time during Tuesday's examinations was any attempt made to establish a direct link of steroid use to the World Wrestling Federation or its owner Vincent K. McMahon but television coverage in Harrisburg indicated at least some negative impact on the WWF. WHTM-TV interviewed a number of children and teenage fans who were near the federal courthouse in hopes of a glimpse at the wrestlers. One said, "They (the wrestlers) go on TV and tell us to stay away from drugs and here they are taking drugs themselves." One page one headline in a Harrisburg newspaper proclaimed, "NINE OF TEN PERFORMERS USING STEROIDS."

Yet, PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT talk/radio host John Arezzi, who covered the trial for all-news WINS-AM in New York, told MATWATCH: "There's the negative side and then there's another side that's almost unbelievable. A number of the shops and merchants near the trial are posting signs saying WELCOME RODDY PIPER or WELCOME WWF WRESTLERS and some of the stores are selling wrestling merchandise at an accelerated pace."

But Arezzi characterized the Tuesday testimony as "routine and lackluster," compared to what many people were expecting when Costopolous was threatening to "blow the lid off the World Wrestling Federation." Arezzi said while Piper appeared composed, Spivey, Blair and Martel "appeared ill at ease during most of the time they were on the stand."

Editorials in New York and several northeastern newspapers blasted the decision to excuse Hogan from testimony. As a call-in guest on Arezzi's PWS Sunday show, Barry Ross, president of Hulk Hogan Vitamins, called the media coverage "a travesty, particularly when he (Hogan) is not even on trial (though Hogan was named in the original indictment as John B. Doe---"B" standing for his actual last name of Bollea---as receiving steroids from Zahorian, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES). Why was he (Hogan) paraded before USA TODAY?" The trial was the dominant topic on last Saturday's edition of THE LARRY KATZ SHOW wrestling talkfest in Baltimore.

In a Monday story in VILLAGE VOICE, freelance writer Irv Muchnick named Zahorian as a WWF associate. "In the early 1980s," according to Muchnick, "when the federation's TV tapings were held in Allentown PA, Zahorian (the state athletic commission-appointed attending physician at many wrestling shows in eastern Pennsylvania) played in several TV skits (known in this carny netherworld as 'angles'). In 1983, for example, Zahorian was seen counseling Eddie Gilbert (who had just come back from a broken neck sustained in an automobile accident) that he might never wrestle again after the Masked Superstar "injured" Gilbert with a reverse neckbreaker---a scenario that moved then-WWF champ Bob Backlund to tears and set up a series of Backlund-Superstar grudge matches."

Wednesday, the testimony focused on Zahorian himself, who was portrayed by defense attorneys as a victim in the scheme of illegal steroid sales by elements of the wrestling industry who were "simply taking advantage of a service." During cross-examination, Zahorian said: "I thought it was better that they get them (the steroids) from a doctor than from another source."

Attorneys brought out how the steroids were traced to Zahorian through shredded Federal Express labels. When the doctor was asked if he shredded the labels, he testified: "I'm not sure. I might have. It's hard to remember everything I did." Zahorian admitted the FBI investigation into his practices had been nerve-wracking, particularly when he realized a bodybuilder acting as an undercover agent became revealed to Zahorian.

In a Wednesday afternoon news briefing on the courthouse steps, Zahorian's attorney William Costopolous said: "To be quite honest with you, I don't blame Dr. Zahorian for getting nervous. If I knew a 400-pound bodybuilder was after me, I probably would have jumped right through the window."

But four significant revelations developed Wednesday from Zahorian and at least two other witnesses. Zahorian told the court WWF champion Hogan had indeed purchased steroids from him and had been a "regular user" but the doctor testified he had "worked with Hogan two years ago to help him get off" the

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anabolics. On further questioning, Zahorian said: "I sold packages of steroids regularly to Vincent McMahon." Costopoulos reiterated the McMahon connection in his closing arguments. A second witness testified that some steroids had been sent to WWF color commentator Lord Alfred Hayes and to former WWF manager Freddie Blassie. Reasons for those mailings were never specified during the trial. Hayes was not called to testify at the trial, nor was Blassie. Another witness named a sixth wrestler as receiving steroids from Zahorian. A government witness says packages containing steroids were traced to Lawrence "Mike" Rotunda, then wrestling for WCW as Captain Mike, in March 1990. Rotunda was not called to testify.

Following an Arezzi report on the trial on MATWATCH publisher Steve Beverly's WBBJ-TV NEWS CENTER SEVEN NIGHTBEAT Wednesday night, pharmacist Mark West discussed the dangers of steroids live with news anchor Tressa Bush. "In the state of Tennessee, the dispensing of steroids are not illegal in the state of Tennessee if prescribed by a licensed physician but it's considered 'very irresponsible.' The problem is more of an ethical one.

"What too often happens is a 15-year-old who tries to play football and maybe has limited upper body strength and sees steroids as a short-term way to achieve his athletic goals. Or, in the case of wrestlers, somebody again doesn't look at the long haul of it---and decides he can make \$100,000, \$200,000....maybe even \$500,000-a-year for a few years and doesn't care if he's shaving perhaps as much as ten years or more off of his life because he figures that's not important now. It's an attitude of I'll abuse my body now for short-term riches and not realize I could be paying a price later."

West says liver toxicity from repeated abuse of steroids is the most prevalent side-effect, which often leads to death, much in the same way pancreatic cancer often spreads to the liver. This was the disease former Florida champion Ed (The Bull) Gantner suffered from for nearly two years before his death earlier this year. West says steroid abuse can lead to heart and stomach problems, as well as emotional difficulties.

"When one takes steroids and they begin to get into the bloodstream, there is this sudden feeling of invincibility...an extremely high emotion, which---if not controlled---can even lead to violent behavior without the person even being aware of what is going on," said West. "Eventually, if the person does not continue on the injections or pills, they begin to have extreme mood fluctuations, which can lead to bouts of depression or other 'downer' emotions; yet, we've already documented the negative long-term effects of continued use of anabolic steroids. When asked if the amount of dosage Spivey testified to taking was considered excessive, West said: "If continued over an extended period of time, my goodness, yes."

West told me in a pre-interview by telephone last Wednesday morning, the dangers are at their worst when steroids get into the hands of coaches or strength trainers for athletic teams who either are not trained to be objective on the subject or do not properly counsel teenagers on the negatives of anabolics. "That kind of dispensing is considered in the same category with hard narcotics in this state by unlicensed people and is definitely a felony," said West. "We're in bad need for stronger education programs on steroids but we devote so

much time to drug education on the substances most of America considers 'harder,' such as cocaine, heroin, LSD, marijuana and alcohol."

While dramatic to people who were yet to hear Graham's story, the 1970s-era WWF champion merely retold his tale Thursday on the stand of his link to steroids and their leading to his current degenerative bone disease. Graham refuted earlier testimony that Zahorian dispensed steroids in small doses. "He never examined me," Graham told the court. "He gave me such a big supply, at one point, I had nine months' worth (of steroids) before I ran out." Arezzi says Graham is expected to call a "major" news conference this week.

In an impromptu news conference on the courthouse steps after his testimony, Graham again called on the WWF and WCW to "clean up the business before somebody has to clean them up."

COMMENTARY

In recent days---particularly on THE LARRY KATZ SHOW---I've been asked, along with the hundreds of calls to Dave Meltzer, what the impact of this trial will have on wrestling.

In the short run, it will not "bring down" wrestling's popularity any more than its overexposure, excesses and constant recycling of old storylines already have in the last three years, in particular. First off, while THE NEW YORK TIMES offered detailed coverage of the trial, the TIMES does not get into most American homes, particularly in the grass roots of the U.S. It isn't even sold in my town.

Most of the mainline U.S. newspapers virtually ignored it after the charge of sales to Hogan was dropped. USA TODAY even failed to provide daily summaries and as the most heavily-circulated paper in the country, it could have had the most influence. Its only mention, other than the verdict, was a three-line Wednesday brief on its sports page of the four wrestlers' testimony.

One has to ask the question where SPORTS ILLUSTRATED was, only three months after canonizing McMahon with a lengthy profile in its WRESTLEMANIA-eve issue. We'll see how gutsy SI is this week if Meltzer is allowed to write a full-length story, of which I have seen the original draft, or whether the steroid issue is reduced to a SCORECARD item, as it was when the sports weekly took McMahon to task for the taste of his Sgt. Slaughter Persian Gulf angle. This is the same magazine, minus some of its former key investigative reporters, which once nearly moved me to tears with its first-person story of a South Carolina football player whose health is a disaster from steroids. The 19-page profile was a major cloud which hung over Gamecock coach Joe Morrisson at the time of his death.

One of the most revealing quotes in Meltzer's original SI piece comes from former NWA champion Terry Funk: "Wrestling promoters test for cocaine because a cocaine problem costs them money. Cocaine leads to wrestlers missing matches or having bad matches and that costs the promoter money. Steroids make the promoter money." I can only lament the demise of THE NATIONAL sports daily just two weeks before the trial's beginning. Meltzer could at least have had access to the nation's mainline sports fanatics.

One of the most thorough investigations of steroids you'll ever read is in Howard Cosell's new book, WHAT'S WRONG WITH SPORTS? (even if Howard did take a poke at THE NATIONAL having a column devoted to wrestling). Among the quotes: "During the eighties (in pro football), anabolic steroids were in vogue. The NFL waited until 1990 before it implemented a steroid test with some teeth, one that called for year-round random testing. Time will tell whether the league carries out the program with credibility. Meanwhile, at least one player,

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Steve Courson, the ex-Pittsburgh Steeler, is struggling for his life because of damage from anabolic steroids."

Adds Cosell: "The worst abusers of steroids are thought to be professional wrestlers; football players, however, are close behind. In fact, steroid use is so widespread among college players that to be competitive, many coaches feel they have to turn their heads and allow players to use the drug."

In THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION in 1989, two professors from Yale University, asserted one million Americans illegally use anabolic steroids and 250,000 of them are high school seniors, who know the health dangers. That figure, alone, should be telling. As Dr. West told us, younger people think nothing of potential consequences of shaving years off their lives at the back end for what they feel are physical and competitive benefits at the front end. Not to mention another potential side-effect most high school athletes, much less pro wrestlers, consider. "Impotence is a much faster end result than potential liver damage," Dr. West told us. "Get a 15-year-old hooked on steroids---and hooked is not an exaggerated term---and in a few years, he wants to get married and start a family, he could be handicapped from that right off the bat because of sterility from steroid use."

So, in short, one trial will not spill a blotter on pro wrestling that's honestly not already there. Face it, it took the National Basketball Association, which probably has the best drug testing and counseling program in all of pro sports, more than ten years of intense labor negotiations to clean up its drug-infested state. Those negotiations led to life suspensions from the NBA for multiple drug offenses. However, in 1991, the NBA has enough teeth in its drug policies to get rid of the habitual violators.

Again, one has to question how much impact this case has had on the rank-and-file wrestling fan. As one executive told me in the last two weeks, "I think the public is oblivious to it unless it's a few mothers who happen to see these things in the papers and start questioning if their children should continue to look at Hulk Hogan as a big hero."

No, this resembles of one of those cases where it's going to take the second, third and fourth trial before the fan and the parent takes serious notice. It reminds me so much of the television quiz scandals in the late 1950s. Spurred by the instant success of the 1955 Tuesday night quiz show, THE \$64,000 QUESTION, television became loaded with more than two dozen prime time quiz shows which all sought to top each other in jackpot and suspense. The ratings went sky-high until a federal grand jury investigation (and subsequent inquiry before Congress) uncovered producers pre-feeding answers to the contestants considered more interesting, in order to keep the viewer interest high. For two years, the three major TV networks took a nonchalant attitude toward the reality of game show cheating (which one Congressman ultimately compared to the end results of professional wrestling) until network presidents were finally called to testify before Congress under threat of government regulation of CBS, ABC and NBC (from which the networks were and still are free).

However, we live in a day where investigative reporting is much more prevalent than in the quiz-scandal era. What I foresee is some news agencies with the guts, time and money

(where, oh where, is former SPORTS ILLUSTRATED investigative whiz Armen Keteyian when we need him?) continuing to press on this story because common sense, if nothing else, has to tell you pro wrestlers have obtained steroids from doctors other than Zahorian. Sealed indictments currently exist in California against a doctor believed to be involved in illegal sale of steroids to pro bodybuilders and possibly wrestlers. But even still, one has to wonder how much impact such investigations will have. Just listen to how Arezzi described the reaction on his PWS program two Sundays ago: "I devoted most of the program to the trial and while we had a few callers who asked some intelligent questions, the majority were still calling up and asking things like, 'What's the main event going to be at SUMMER SLAM?' So, you have to wonder how much people really care."

If, as expected, this week, Superstar Graham announces plans to file a lawsuit against Vince McMahon, the WWF, Zahorian and a steroid manufacturer because of his physical deterioration, the allegations could get far more interesting. But one would have to question if that case would ever come to trial because with the high-powered lawyers who would be involved---particularly McMahon---an out-of-court financial settlement stands a high percentage of resulting.

No, the onus is on the chiefs of both the World Wrestling Federation and World Championship Wrestling to get this mess cleaned up themselves and take the responsibility which should have been taken years ago. Such as Dr. Frank Stanton, then the president of CBS, who in 1960, told a Congressional subcommittee looking into the quiz scandals, "We will take full responsibility for what goes on our air and HOW it is aired." CBS immediately canceled every big-money quiz show it had and the other two networks had no choice but to follow suit. It is now a federal offense to fix a game show.

Whereas this trial focused on wrestlers competing for the WWF (and it should be underscored that no wrestlers were indicted because at the time they purchased the steroids, it was not a federal offense for them to do so, as it is now---only for one to sell them), Danny Spivey competes for WCW and testimony linked sales to Mike Rotundo while he was still competing for Ted Turner's group.

The tragedy in all of this is the disappointing stand of both groups. McMahon's reaction to all of this was to crank up his p.r. machine into higher gear and defend his company's "wholesome family entertainment," a joke if I have ever heard one. And I was equally disappointed in Jim Herd's reaction when I asked for a comment. While Herd is right in calling steroid abuse an "individual thing...a delayed thing...something people do to themselves and find the damage later in life," I expected a much stronger stand.

There are at least two fallacies in testing for steroids. One, which has been related to me by one much better-versed than I on nuances of the individual performance-enhancing drugs, is the current "designer drug" of choice for physiques is the Human Growth Hormone (HGH), which will not show up in standard steroid tests. HGH is the one typically believed to produce misshapened or disproportionately-sized faces in users. The other is the ability of athletes to purchase clean urine. As Cosell pointed out in his recent book, Lawrence Taylor---who was used earlier this year in a key angle at the Meadowlands for WCW---bragged in his autobiography about subbing clean urine in place of his drug-infested own for drug tests. In fact, periodicals in this country run advertising for drug-free urine from individuals in Austin, Texas; Cleveland, Ohio; and in the state of Tennessee.

It is time for McMahon, who certainly can't be impervious to all of this---and WCW president Jack Petrik to mandate

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steroid and HGH testing, as expensive and fallible as it may be. Inside sources have told MATWATCH that while denials are currently being aired, steroid-testing is at least being talked out loud about for WCW by this fall. However, I am calling on Petrik to do more than talk out loud. Jack, this is much too serious a situation and only an idiot would not believe steroids are not infested within WCW. But McMahon has to be placed on the line squarely on this issue and, ultimately take the strong stand we know he will not. Why? He's the one who redefined what wrestling is to America. He (and Hogan) ARE wrestling to 85% of the U.S. Further, he is the one who has made wrestling a superhero kid's show and these are the young people to whom he owes the most responsibility. If he doesn't change his tune, sooner or later, an investigative reporter---as an old cigar commercial proclaimed---"is gonna get you." And to a reader I respect greatly for his opinion which often differs from me on the subject of Vince, McMahon is hardly an "enlightened leader" on this subject. And if he is going to continue to look the other way or use his p.r. machine and his attorneys to contend he knows nothing about it, then Vince McMahon is indeed the Richard Nixon of professional wrestling.

IS FLAIR OUT???

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Flair out of the ring and into the broadcast booth after the summer GREAT AMERICAN BASH tour, WCW chief Jim Herd told MATWATCH, "We have no plans for Ric Flair to come out of the ring. We have another year to go on his contract and we're negotiating the fine points of an extension and we don't see anything that would change that."

But with continually declining crowds, including a recent low of 2,700 at The Omni in Atlanta, and a spring drop in TV ratings (buttressed only by a WCW MAIN EVENT rally to a 2.8 June 23), WCW executives are looking at all possibilities to perk up the waning interest. Last week, Herd denied reports of Rhodes being in trouble in the booker's post if Bash crowds do not rise.

Said one anonymous WCW insider: "Flair has an expensive contract and he's not drawing. It's not his fault. But with Turner looking to cut costs in every department, this could be a way." Said another: "It's not just the money. Rhodes and Flair absolutely can't stand each other and Dusty's made no secret he wants Flair out completely by the fall."

The scenario discussed with MATWATCH would have had Flair dropping the WCW world belt to Barry Windham at the Macon Coliseum Monday night, with the likelihood of the match not being shown until July 13, the day before THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH. Now this would affect the main event of the BASH pay-per-view, if the belt change took place Monday night, is unclear at this point. One source said: "They've even considered tearing up the whole card."

MATWATCH was told Turner Home Entertainment officials were lobbying hard for no belt change after the intense publicity campaign for cable operators and PPV distributors. Pay-cable industry insiders say it's too late for "infomercials" on the

BASH to be changed for individual local cable outlets.

Herd was not available for comment Monday morning before we went to press. The situation resembled the 1988 plan Rhodes had, just before being fired as booker, for Flair to drop the world belt to Rick Steiner at STARRCADE. Flair walked out of a meeting in Atlanta and it took WCW president Jack Petrik to coax Flair out of bailing out of the promotion altogether.

Another source close to the situation feels cooler heads will prevail: "You've got to understand Turner Home Entertainment IS the show when it comes to the pay-per-views and they're going to be on the line with a lot of cable operators if they have to deliver a show that's different from what is advertised." Last week, a WCW insider told us chances were "at least 50-50" that the Flair-Luger match would not come off in Baltimore, as scheduled.

If Windham won the belt Monday night, it would signify the first time a WCW/NWA world title changed hands at a regular TV taping. But another insider warned: "Be careful about this. They're on the warpath about newsletters again."

Former LTR Star

ALZADO LINKS BRAIN CANCER TO STEROIDS

LOS ANGELES---Former Oakland Raider and star of the pro wrestling sitcom **LEARNING THE ROPES** Lyle Alzado blames his inoperable brain cancer on steroids.

Alzado was interviewed Saturday night on NBC's **FIRST PERSON WITH MARIA SHRIVER**. The ex-NFL All-Pro defensive lineman was diagnosed with the cancer more than two months ago.

The 42-year-old Alzado retired in 1985 after 14 years in the NFL. He has lost 65 pounds since last year and suffers now from dizzy spells and a deteriorating physical condition.

"I used steroids for years," Alzado told Shriver. "They were the secret to my success...and 75 per cent of the guys in the NFL use them. In my comeback attempt (a try last year to regain a slot on the L.A. Raiders' roster), I used a certain steroid which destroyed my immune system."

In a poignant moment, Alzado said, "You know, that big massive guy I was---I hate to admit this---was all phony."

In the 1988-89 season, Alzado starred in the Canadian-produced syndicated sitcom, **LEARNING THE ROPES**, in which he played a high school principal who moonlighted as a pro wrestler. NWA wrestlers for Jim Crockett Promotions made guest shots on the series, which only lasted 26 episodes.

Shriver showed flashbacks from a year-old profile of Alzado, in which he denied using steroids: "I'm clean... I'm still clean ...and I'll always be clean." When Shriver asked why he lied last year, Alzado said: "Because, even now, I will be in trouble for this---and I lied to you for fear of what might happen to me."

Alzado and his wife Cathy are nearly broke after the expensive medical treatments. "Looking at myself now," Alzado told Shriver, "I'm half the man I was."

Just three years ago, Alzado was taping **LEARNING THE ROPES**. Now, he has to have assistance to walk. "I just hope," said Alzado during his Saturday night interview, "this will convince junior high and high school kids that they can do without this stuff."

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"I Believe We Can Do It"

READY OR NOT: PEDICINO IS IN THE WRESTLING BUSINESS

The year 1990-91 has been a rollercoaster one for Joe Pedicino. The man who made both close friends and heated enemies for creating a concept called PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK in 1985, wrestling's first successful syndicated TV magazine format, featuring a consortium of promotions most told him he'd never put together, has seen it all.

He left World Championship Wrestling after a series of creative differences, including a proposal he become a heel as "The Fan's Man" character. He revived the low-budget GEORGIA ALL-STAR WRESTLING (under the TV title, PRO WRESTLING '91) but could not enlist financial and production support to develop a TV package for the remaining few fledgling independent promotions in the U.S. Fourteen months ago, Pedicino was visited unannounced by a Nigerian businessman who vowed a lifelong dream to own a major-league funded and produced wrestling company and wanted Pedicino to head it. A skeptical Joe had the visitor checked by several investigators and found him credible. Unfortunately, either because of the recession or pie-in-the-sky ambitions of Oleyami, Global Wrestling Federation---once touted to have a \$25 million line of credit, thanks to Oleyami, failed to fly.

Joe negotiated for a television special with the Fox network and narrowly missed winning it, when Fox committed to a February WWF special which never materialized. Pedicino privately made a stab at a purchase of another major promotion. Oleyami and Pedicino were ready to lay out \$4 million in government-backed securities to buy the USWA and its television rights from promoter Jerry Jarrett. But Jarrett reportedly blinked (telling some "the money was never there"). Pedicino advisers Bill Eadie and Ray Stevens, overhearing dressing room talk when some Georgia regulars joined the USWA troupe for a late December taping, advised the Georgian his \$4 million may go for naught after allegedly hearing Jarrett tell some of his performers even with a Pedicino buyout, the USWA would still control the weekly daytime contract on ESPN. The purchase was aborted.

Pedicino married long-time sweetheart, the vivacious (and, I might add, better half of the couple--and knowing them both---I can get away with that) Boni Blackstone, amid a New Year's Day reception at the Georgia All-Star wrestling site. Joe was outright called a liar in a column appearing in another wrestling newsletter and at least one other wrestling journalist claimed to know people who "insist the whole thing (Global) was a 'work'." He persevered, continuing to seek financing to start a competitive national promotion. Eddie Gilbert bolted out of the Global picture after the continued delays and Jim Cornette surfaced. Pedicino and Cornette became a popular broadcast team for the Ladies Professional Wrestling Association. Eadie and Cornette continued to stand by the Atlanta television veteran. Joe, ever the unconventional one, introduced two newsletter writers as commentators on his PRO WRESTLING '91 and Blackstone's WVEU-TV SATURDAY NIGHT SUPERSTARS marathon: Scott Hudson, who has blossomed into the most credible new color commentator in the industry this year; and Steve Prazak, who as Steven DeTruth, resembles Rick Martel in his heel getup and whose acting experience is a genuine plus. After four more Oleyami financial deals fell through, Pedicino finally began seeking his own funding and June 24, the money---however less than the \$25 million Oleyami had been pledging---birthed the Global Wrestling Federation as a national replacement for Jarrett's declining USWA.

After more than a year of surviving enormous criticism for failing to launch GWF by January 1, Global begins for real next week on ESPN and July 13 in syndication, thanks to a money partnership of Max Andrews Syndication, several banks and some silent

Guest Column

IS JOE PEDICINO THE SAVIOR OF U.S. WRESTLING?

By DR. MIKE LANO

As WCW TV ratings continue to slip like the pushes for (Brian) Pillman and (Ric) Flair; and as the public world of Vincent K. (McMahon) seems to fall on a daily basis---it's now or never for Joe Pedicino to "Do the Right Thing" for U.S. wrestling.

That is: to present wrestling in a new light much like (Dave) Meltzer did in THE NATIONAL. As professionally, highly competitive and non-condescending. And Joe is capable of doing it.

We were all critical when we heard Joe had this idea, or that check, or some backer. How many of us predicted the Titan circus would all fall to bits in 1991---the damaging Hogan and Hellwig articles. The Harrisburg trials with daily nationwide publicity. Performers reportedly collapsing on planes due to drugs. Inevitable reports of Titan employees testing HIV positive. The loss of SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT. Poor arena attendance and, worse, fan disinterest and disgust at their biggest pay-per-view show angle (dead in the water with Slaughter).

Listening to the hope and happiness in performers' voices (Cornette, Landell, Rogers) when they ask "is Joe FINALLY going to happen for us all?" got me thinking. Joe is the last hope for us who've given up on WCW. He knows he has to do something unique to create interest on ESPN. It does not have to be costly or difficult to book. And that's simply Japan-style wrestling, focusing on ability prevalent before the circus of '84. It worked with the tag at SUPERBRAWL and worked for the most part on the UWF pay-per-view. It can and will work for Joe Pedicino. Long after WCW and the WWF have burned their bridges with New Japan and SWS, Joe will be there ready to properly promote men's and women's wrestling. Here's to you, Joe: may everything go your way. For our sake...and for the sake of those talented wrestlers.

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private investors. The reality of Global is finally here. The reality of success is now up to Joe Pedicino. After GWF's first TV tapings Friday night in Dallas, Pedicino paused for an exclusive one-on-one interview with MATWATCH, which will be followed in the July 15 issue by analysis from editor Steve Beverly on Global's chances and a guest column by Dr. Mike Lano:

GLOBAL IS BEING LAUNCHED SIX MONTHS AFTER YOU HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED. WHY DID IT TAKE LONGER THAN YOU HAD PLANNED TO GET STARTED?

JP: We said from the beginning, we would do it right, or we wouldn't do it at all. We had problems nailing down the financing. We also took time to make sure we could enter the television markets, the pay-per-view markets, the merchandising arena and several other money-making endeavors. Once the financing and the other parts of the puzzle came together, we were ready to go. As most people who deal in the business world will realize, sometimes these types of delays are unavoidable.

DURING THE PERIOD RIGHT AFTER YOUR ORIGINAL PLANNED START, YOU WERE TAKEN TO TASK BY SOME NEWSLETTER WRITERS AND AT LEAST ONE COLUMNIST REFERRED TO YOU AS A "LIAR." HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THOSE ACCUSATIONS...AND HOW HAS IT AFFECTED YOUR VIEW OF WRESTLING BULLETINS?

JP: The obvious thing for us to have done would have been to have stood up and screamed back. But because of the sensitive negotiations and because of some things in the background that the public will never be aware of, it made more sense to just lie still until we were ready to debut. The only way to prove we weren't lying, the only way to prove we weren't a hoax and the only way to prove we were serious was to debut and show up on ESPN and on the USWA syndicated network. As of July 8, the Global Wrestling Federation premieres on ESPN with an unprecedented 42 current shows in nine weeks. The GWF will be the most highly-exposed new wrestling organization in history. We will debut with 153 hours of television per week on 125 television stations, an average of four new hours a week on ESPN and TV in ten countries outside the United States. No one hated the delay more than I but in the long run, it turned out to be the best thing that could have happened.

YOU'RE STARTING OUT WITH FAR LESS MONEY THAN WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE, IF YOUR DECEMBER DEAL HAD GONE THROUGH. HOW WILL THIS AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE GLOBAL ORGANIZATION?

JP: Steve, if we had gotten \$25 million, which was the number everyone was bandying around, I don't know what we would have done with all of it. Just because you have all of the money in the world doesn't mean that's all it takes to be a successful wrestling promotion. Just ask Jim Herd. We have enough money to do the things we want to do. I said earlier the delay turned out to be the best thing that could have happened. The reason I say that is during the past six months, it has become evident that spending a lot of money to do nightly house shows is a sure-fire way to lose money.

SO YOU'RE SAYING GLOBAL WILL BE PRIMARILY A TV-BASED WRESTLING ORGANIZATION, RATHER THAN ARENA-BASED?

JP: That's correct. Our product will be what is seen on not what is seen in the arenas. We will only operate house

shows on weekends. Friday night, we will tape television at the Sportatorium, which we have spent more than \$20,000 refurbishing and changing the name to the Globaldome. On Saturday nights, we will operate a house show somewhere in north Texas. On Sunday nights, we will operate a house show somewhere within 300 miles of Atlanta, Ga. Our wrestlers will be off Monday through Thursday each week. I believe this will lead to healthier wrestlers, happier wrestlers and very exciting television on Friday nights.

WITH A SCALED-DOWN BUDGET, HOW WILL THIS AFFECT THE QUALITY OF WRESTLERS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ATTRACT? AND...WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL: TO HIRE ESTABLISHED STARS OR CREATE YOUR OWN?

JP: First off, our talent budget has hardly been scaled down. But Steve, the main thing is, other than a few select wrestlers who are on huge guaranteed contracts, 90 per cent of the talent for the other two organizations (WCW and WWF) are not making much money. The average contract offered to a wrestler today by one of the two organizations calls for a guarantee of less than \$80,000 a year and they still have to travel seven days a week. If the Global Wrestling Federation guarantees a wrestler the same amount of money, the wrestler takes home more because he's only traveling two days a week. So, the caliber of talent has not been affected by the financial situation. As far as developing our own, this will be a major project for the GWF. We will bring in recognized stars but we will also immediately begin creating our own. At our debut Friday night, we introduced a masked man called The Patriot (Del Wilkes). I have never seen a wrestler get over with the crowd as fast as did the Patriot Friday night. This was due, in a great part, to a sensational match between the Patriot and Stan Lane with Jim Cornette in Lane's corner. A tremendous amount of effort went into Jim Cornette and Stan Lane's part to launch the career of The Patriot. We also introduced Rasta the Voodoomon, who I predict will be a tremendous heel in the near future. Now, let me add, we also had Buddy Landell, Makham Singh (Mike Shaw), Rip Rogers, Adrian Street and several other well-known names. So, the mix was clearly there. I might add in two nights, in 36 matches, there was one run-in, three disqualifications and 32 pins.

SINCE YOU'VE SEGUEED INTO YOUR FIRST TAPINGS, HOW BIG WERE YOUR CROWDS AND HOW DO YOU FEEL, OVERALL, ABOUT THE START YOU'RE OFF TO?

We are ecstatic. We had more than 1,200 people Friday night and more than 1,500 people Saturday night. People came up to us who had not been to wrestling at the Sportatorium in more than two years and told us they had heard about Global and wanted to come see it. Everyone we spoke with was very happy with the new Sportatorium and with all of the wrestlers.

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ESPN DEAL: SOME SKEPTICS HAVE EXPRESSED DOUBT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DELIVER THAT MANY FIRST RUN-SHOWS THIS SUMMER WITH A CONSISTENCY OF QUALITY. HOW DO YOU COUNTER THAT?

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JP: Well, they have a point. It will be tough. But that's why we've gone to the tournament format. During the month of July and August, four tournaments will be held, each one containing 24 matches, each tournament standing on its own and that will make up the programs of the two-month introduction to Global. Think about it: in two months, fans watching ESPN's GWF SUPERCARD will see four tournaments with a TV champion, a light heavyweight champion, tag team champions and a North American heavyweight champion all crowned. On our syndicated show each week, which is called GWF MAJOR LEAGUE WRESTLING, fans will see an update on how each tournament is going. We feel like with the tournament format, we will be able to bring more stars, more new characters, great wrestling matches and continuity to ESPN for the summer.

WHAT ABOUT PAY-PER-VIEW? DO YOU HAVE PLANS FOR IT...AND HOW SOON, IF SO?

Yes, we will be in the pay-per-view business. We will be making a major announcement concerning pay-per-view in the near future but, for now, that's all I can say.

I CONTINUE TO GET MAIL FROM READERS WHO SAY THEY'RE NOT BEING GIVEN WHAT THEY WANT FROM EITHER THE WWF OR WCW AND SOME ARE ACTUALLY WONDERING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THIS INDUSTRY? WHAT WILL DIFFERENTIATE GLOBAL FROM THE "BIG TWO?"

JP: Global will be the first federation to actually make the fans part of the TV show, rather than just a background for the TV show. We will involve fans in our television through their comments and their questions. All I can say is: be watching TV starting July 8 to find out what I mean. As far as listening to the fans: on Friday night, June 28th, at our debut, two suggestion boxes were put at the souvenir stand. They will be at every show Global does. We invite the fans to make their suggestions. We may not act on them all but we will listen to all of them. The Global Wrestling Federation will be the wrestling federation of the fans.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR CREATIVE STAFF? ONE OF THE MOST ASKED QUESTIONS WE'VE HAD IS WHO IS YOUR BOOKER? AND YOU KEEP SAYING YOU DON'T HAVE ONE. SO...HOW ARE THE CREATIVE DECISIONS REACHED?

JP: The wrestling office for the Global Wrestling Federation consists of: Joe Pedicino, Bill Eadie (Demolition Ax), Jim Cornette and Skandor Akbar. I have taken the booker's jobs and divided it into three positions: first, is talent coordinator, who will be Bill Eadie. His job is to work with me in creating new characters and putting current wrestlers into their characters. Second, for long-term creative planning, I will have the help of one of the greatest minds in the history of wrestling, Jim Cornette. I defy anyone to find anyone better than Jim Cornette at planning out long-term scenarios that will get TV ratings. Third, for running the dressing room and dealing directly with the wrestlers, I have hired Skandor Akbar. Skandor is one of the most respected men in the wrestling business by the wrestlers themselves and has proven in the past---and recently in Puerto Rico---that he is excellent in that capacity. With Bill

Eadie's tremendous knowledge of wrestling, Jim Cornette's creative mind and Skandor Akbar's penchant for working with wrestlers, this should be a team that puts together some of the most awesome TV in recent wrestling history.

WHEN YOU WERE IN NEW ORLEANS AT THE NATPE PROGRAMMERS' CONVENTION, YOU HAD WITH YOU WHAT MANY WOULD CALL YOUR EQUIVALENT TO ANDRE THE GIANT OR EL GIGANTE. WHO IS HE? AND WHEN WILL HE FIRST APPEAR? AND WHAT KIND OF RING SKILLS DOES HE HAVE?

JP: We're calling him Paul Bunyan, the Canadian Giant. He is 7-foot-8, 440 pounds. And that is without lifts in his shoes. He has been wrestling for over two years. He has been working with Bill Eadie now for almost a year, very quietly and has just in the past two weeks, made his debut in Japan, representing the GWF. He makes his first appearance at the Globaldome July 5th and his first TV taping the next week. He will be the best working big man since a young Andre the Giant. His finishing maneuver is the flying bulldog headlock and he usually does it on two men at once.

WITH YOUR SCHEDULE NOW COMPRISING GLOBAL AND LPWA, ALONG WITH THE GEORGIA ALL-STAR GROUP, HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU THAT YOU MAY BE SPREADING YOURSELF THIN? WILL YOU ATTEMPT TO DELEGATE MORE RESPONSIBILITY TO YOUR CREATIVE STAFF?

JP: Yes. As far as the LPWA, Jim Cornette and Tor Berg (LPWA owner/syndicator) do the creative end. I make suggestions but I am truly just the announcer. Just ask Medusa Miceli (who threw a pie in Pedicino's face). I did color commentary for the first Global program just to be part of the initial show but I am now turning that duty over to Scott Hudson, who I predict will be the best new piece of announcing talent in the wrestling business in 1991. Scott and Craig Johnson will handle color and play-by-play, respectively, for MAJOR LEAGUE WRESTLING. Craig and Scott will also do ESPN; however, a third man will be added in the near future to make the ESPN shows different---and yes, the third person will be a heel. But that's all I'm going to say at this time. I will do News Center segments on the Global shows starting in a few weeks. And I can already anticipate your next question: yes, the News Center will cover wrestling news from all three major organizations.

A FINAL QUESTION: MANY, INCLUDING MYSELF, HAVE RAISED THE QUESTION OF TIMING WITH GLOBAL. WE'RE ONLY JUST NOW SHOWING SIGNS OF COMING OUT OF THE BUSINESS RECESSION. ARENA ATTENDANCE IS DOWN, TV RATINGS HAVE SLIPPED FOR WRESTLING AND THE OVERALL MORALE OF FANS APPEARS TO BE RUNNING OUT OF GAS. WHY NOW, CONSIDERING THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, START GLOBAL?

JP: I read an interesting article just this week in a national magazine. It said if you have a new idea for a business and your research shows it will work, you cannot wait until the environment is correct to start it. If this were a down time for sitcoms on TV, would NBC tell Bill Cosby not to do one? I don't think so. We feel like the new innovations that the Global Wrestling Federation will bring to televised wrestling will bring the fans to the TV. As a matter of fact, with the situation you just described and the chaos running rampant in one of the major organizations, we don't feel like there has ever been a better time to begin.

CHICAGO DOWN: Hulk Hogan was back in action Friday night at the Rosemont Horizon in Chicago before only 6,000, said to be the smallest Hogan-led WWF show in Chi-town in at least four years.

SO WHAT?: But sources tell us WWF officials don't buy Hogan has suffered from any negative publicity over the steroid trial. If you don't get **SPORTS ILLUSTRATED**, get this week's issue, which will have Dave Meltzer's piece on the situation in the **SCORECARD** section. The quotes from WWF vice prez Basil DeVito are interesting.

IS IT DEAD?: Most of the Hogan-Slaughter rematches are drawing poor (for Titan) advances, except the ones where Randy Savage is the ref.

MEADOWLANDS ADVANCE: As of last Thursday, 3,500 seats had been sold for WCW's Meadowlands BASH this week, which probably points to a 6,000-6,500 turnout.

LPWA CANCELLATION: LPWA has had to put off its latest taping at least two weeks. One of Tor Berg's financiers was late getting the money in the bank, according to insiders, so a postponement was necessary.

CONTINUED BAD \$\$\$\$: The stories aren't so good on the Memphis circuit. The first week of Jerry Lawler's return after a six-week layoff drew only \$3,500 in Louisville and \$1,100 in Evansville.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Lawler brought in Jackie Fargo again to team up with him against Eric Embry and Leatherface (Brian Lee). In the semifinal cage match, Jeff Jarrett and Robert Fuller took on Judge Dread and Samu with the stip again that the losing team has to split.

OTHER MATCHES: Tony and Kim Anthony faced Tom Prichard and Miss Texas, Bill Dundee vs. Ta-Gar, Danny Davis putting up the light heavyweight title against Rob Zakowski and in the opener, Doug Gilbert vs. Chris Candido.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?: No word on whether Jarrett will keep the USWA monicker after losing Dallas, or go back to the old CWA name.

GOSSETT ON MIKE: Former Memphian Ronald P. Gossett IV is back on the color mike for the All-American promotion on Chattanooga TV. The group is taping at Dillard's Music Park in Rome GA...but if you can get a tape, do. It has some of the worst lighting and editing you'll ever see.

WHAT'S GOING ON?: That's exactly what a caller wanted to know who phoned the Sportatorium (Globaldome) the day before the Global debut. The caller: Kevin Von Erich.

THE FIRST CROWDS: Pedicino makes no bones about papering the Globaldome for his TV shows but one correction from last week: a two-night ringside ticket is \$10 with \$6 for a two-night general admission.

PATRIOT'S PROGRESS: The Global execs debated right on up to the actual tape day on what to call Del Wilkes (who some remember as The Trooper on the old AWA show) and some senti-

ment was even expressed not to put the TV belt on him because "the old AWA fans might remember." But the counterargument is the AWA wasn't seen by that many people and after being off the air six months, memories weren't that strong.

THE AFTERMATH: One fan at the show called to say Wilkes' post-match comments on the Globaldome stage drew the biggest pop in the building in ages.

THE FINAL 3: Chris Walker and Buddy Landell were in the finals of the Global TV tourney. We're told Landell was magnificent, telling the two faces: "You might as well just go ahead and give me the belt. And to show you the kind of guy I am, I'll give you both a title shot."

LANDELL'S LAMENT: To throw the fans, expecting a Landell vs. face match in the first round-robin, Walker and the Patriot were matched. Landell stayed at ringside, cheering for both of them, telling the cameraperson: "It doesn't matter. I'll beat either one of them." The Patriot won when, after a collision, Walker climbed to the top and Landell pushed him off. The Patriot revived, not having seen Landell's "help" and scored the fall. Landell then went right into the ring and beat the tar out of Patriot. Landell also copied Ric Flair's feet-on-ropes pinfall tries and figure-4. Landell argued with the ref about breaking up a foot-on-ropes and Patriot caught Budroe in a schoolboy for the title.

ANOTHER POP: The other big crowd pop came when Jim Cornette clobbered The Patriot with his tennis racket in an early-round match against Stan Lane. Wilkes milked it for a 2 15/16 count before kicking out.

THE MIKE GUYS: We're told Craig Johnson and Scott Hudson, who had some practice at a recent **PRO WRESTLING '91** taping, did a first-rate job on the Global commentary and meshed well for two guys who have only worked together once.

THE FIRST SYNDIE: In the first week, you'll see Chris Walker vs. Big Daddy Falcone, Axl Rotten and Stan Lane in squashes, Brian Adias and Gary Young vs. Doug Sommers/Zebra Kid, Nick Busich in a squash, Adrian Street vs. Rip Rogers and Hudson introduces The Cartel, which will be the main heel team for Global. Also, Norman reverts to Makham Singh as Mike Shaw tells Pedicino, "Don't you EVER call me Norman again!"

MALENKO'S GUYS: A crowd of 300 turned out at Boris Malenko's School of Wrestling for a June 23 show. Among the matches: Brian Jernigan d. Bill Berea, Nasty Ned Brady d. Rock & Roll Warrior, Mean Mike Steele went to a double DQ vs. Al Hardeman and the Storm Trooper d. Big Jim Magnum.

SECOND RUN: UWF is playing off its pay-per-view matches as part of its weekly series for the next few weeks.

ROSS RETURNS: THE JIM ROSS WRESTLING SHOW returns to its regular slot on WSB-AM (750) Sunday night and this Saturday's WCW will be a two-hour effort.

FIREWORKS GALORE: The AAWF group is holding a card Saturday night at the Chattanooga National Guard Armory with Bob & Scott Armstrong, Kareem (Ray Candy) Muhammad, The Big O, Moondog Spot and Gossett's Devastation tag team on the bill.

MORE AIR: Tom Burke and Dan Reilly started their new hour-long wrestle/talkfest Saturday on WNNZ (640) in Springfield MA. It's on Saturdays (noon to 1) and I wish these guys well.

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IDIOTS

June 24-30

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]:

{Guest host: Sean Mooney}; Greg Valentine d. Barbarian by DQ; (GUESTS) Nasty Boys/Jimmy Hart. Several sketches show Nasties running rampant through Titan Sports building; (UPDATE) Tugboat turn into Typhoon; Big Bossman d. Black Knight; Virgil d. Louie Spiccoli; (GUEST) Jim Duggan; (CLIP) Duggan attacked by Slaughter's Marauders; (WBP REPORT); Berserker d. Jerry Stevens; Road Warrior Animal d. Paul Roma; Beverly Brothers d. Terry Schiller/Bobby Jones; Ricky Steamboat d. Demolition Smash; (GUEST) Jake Roberts, who hides Lucifer in Hart's dressing room & causes Jimmy to faint. Nasties later rescue; (BARBER SHOP) Andre the Giant tells Brutus Beefcake he has to have knee operation; Warlord d. Koko B. Ware; (FINALE) Duggan blows up Bobby Heenan's rental car w. hand grenade. BOMB.

(UIW) - Harley Watkins d. Bob Wissman; Killerhit Kirk Dredd d. Kerry Davis; Lords of Darkness d. Beachboy Vinnie Young/Rick Starr; Hellhound I d. Steve Valentino (Hellhound unmasks as Dredd); Max Thrasher d. Black Ranger; Mr. Bojangles d. Warpig when Sonny Steele hits Warpig by mistake with briefcase but Warpig leaves Bo laying after. RESTHOLD.

(ALL-JAPAN WEEKLY) - [6/3]: {CLIP} Abdullah the Butcher d. Joel Deaton. Abby challenges Shohei Baba at ringside mike; (PRO WRESTLING NEWS) State Police d. Randy Rose/Mike Golden; Jumbo Tsuruta d. Kenta Kobashi; Mitsuharu Misawa/Toshiaki Kawada d. Terry Gordy/Steve Williams. POWERSLAM. [6/10]: (PWN) Baba's return; (6-MAN) Shohei Baba/Rusher Kimura/Masanobu Fuchi d. Abdullah/Giant Kimala I & II; Misawa d. Gordy. POWERSLAM.

[6/15]: {PWN/ASIAN TAG TITLE} Dan Kroffat/Doug Furnas d. Kenta Kobashi/Tsuyoshi Kikuchi to retain belts; Williams d. Kawada; (ALL-JAPAN TAG TITLE MATCH) Stan Hansen/Danny Spivey d. Tsuruta/Akira Taue to retain belts. POWERSLAM.

(NEW JAPAN PRO) - [6/15]: Big Van Vader d. Scott Norton; Shinya Hashimoto d. Shibiev; Tatsumi Fujinami d. Masashi Aoyagi; Riki Choshu d. Kensuke Sasaki. POWERSLAM.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Black Magic/Ringo Mendoza/Super Astro d. Masakre/MS I/Jerry Estrada 2-3 falls; (VIDEO) Nitron & pals walk around la Arena Mexico; Atlantis/La Mascara Sagrada/Casanova el Vampiro Canadiense d. Pierroth Jr./Fabuloso Blondy/Nitron 2-3 by DQ when Nitron chokes Casanova w. armband in 3rd fall; (LA TERCERA CAIDA) 1. (6/14/91) Atlantis d. Kung Fu. 2. Filming of movie CONTACTO EN MEXICO finished. 3. Chucho Herodes released from hospital w. busted head/ankle; (6-MAN) Konnan el Barbaro/El Rayo de Jalisco Jr./Sangre Chicana d. El Perro Aguayo/Cien Caras/Mascara Ano Dos Mil 2-3 by DQ when Caras fouls Konnan in 3rd fall; El Satanico d. Kato Kung Lee I 2-3. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/ESPN) - Tom Prichard d. Mascara del Fuego; Jeff Jarrett d. El Gran Colosso; (MIXED) Tojo Yamamoto/Little Tokyo d. Danny Davis/Karate Kid; Bill Dundee d. Boogeyman. BOMB-PLUS.

(UWF) - [2 Wks. Ago]: Joshua Bengurion d. Hog Calhoun; Chris Michaels/Tom Brandi d. Beast/Capt. Badd; (CAPT. LOU'S CORNER) Albano talks about wrestling vs. boxing; Wet 'n' Wild d. Brian Donahue/Messenger; (LOU'S CORNER) Bam Bam Bigelow; Power Twins d. Cass Jackson/Scultron Phillips; (REPLAYS) [1/91]: B. Brian Blair d. Mike Williams; [2/91 (LUMBERJACK)]: Paul Orndorff double DQ vs. Steve Williams. BOMB.

[Last Week]: {BEACH BRAWL} [UWF WOMEN'S TITLE] Rockin' Robin d. Candi Divine to win belt; Wet & Wild d. Cactus Jack/Bob Orton Jr. RESTHOLD.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. FILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(SUNCOAST PRO) - [SUNCOAST SOUTHERN TITLE] Nasty Ned Brady d. Ian Weston to retain belt; Allison Royal d. Penelope Paradise by DQ. Penelope DDTs ref Frankie Reyes after, suspended and "fined" \$1,000; Rico Frederico vs. Black Panther in progress as show ends. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/WMC) - Rob Zakowski d. Bill Rush; (6-MAN) Danny Davis/Tony Anthony/Doug Gilbert d. Sabu/Judge Dredd/Prichard when Tony handcuffed to ropes & Miss Texas/Prichard tar & feather Kim Anthony; (VIDEO) Jackie Fargo; Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller d. Scorpion/Chris Candido; Jerry Lawler d. Ta-Gar & decks Embry over top rope after; (PIPKIN BLDG) Lawler d. Embry but is attacked after by Leatherface (Brian Lee). RESTHOLD.

(WINDY CITY) - Ron Powers d. Capt. Fantastic in 6 sec.; Untouchables d. Denny Thomas/Irish Rebel; (1989/BATTLE ROYAL) Bam Bam Bigelow wins. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: {USWA LT. HWT. TITLE} Danny Davis d. Chris Candido to retain belt; (SOUTHERN TITLE) Jeff Jarrett d. Eric Embry by DQ. Embry retains belt; (TX TITLE) Bill Dundee no contest vs. Tom Prichard as both hit ref. Prichard retains title; Pvt. Terry Daniels d. El Grande Pistolero; Robert Fuller d. Master Blaster by DQ when Tex Sallenger runs in, then 7-man melee erupts. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Samu/Judge Dread d. T.D. Steel/Chris Frazier; Ta-Gar d. Randy Johnson but Dundee chairs Ta-Gar for not releasing claw; (PIPKIN) Tony Anthony d. Prichard by DQ when Miss TX runs in & catfight starts w. Kim Anthony; Tony Anthony d. Scorpion; (ANGLE) Miss TX taunts Pez Whatley until Kim Anthony decks her. Eddie Marlin separates them; (KICKBOXER VS. WRESTLER) Dong Cha Mang d. Frazier; Dundee/Doug Gilbert d. Candido/Carl Stiles. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WWF/SYN) - [SUPERSTARS]: Big Bossman d. Intruder; Kerry Von Erich d. Louie Spiccoli; (UPDATE) Randy Savage-Liz romance; Earthquake/Typhoon d. Larry Sampson/Bob Allen; Berserker d. Larry Williams; Virgil d. Sharkey; Warlord d. Larry Ludden; Ricky Steamboat d. Dale Wolfe; (FUNERAL PARLOR) Paul Bearer w. Slaughter's Marauders. RESTHOLD.

[CHALLENGE]: Nasty Boys d. W.T. Jones/Beow; Valentine d. Intruder; Undertaker d. Greg Zoeller; Jake Roberts d. Larry Ludden; Beverly Brothers d. Scott Catlin/Stephan DeLeon; Davey Boy Smith d. Black Knight; Col. Mustafa d. Stevens. RESTHOLD.

(LPWA) - Bad, Black & Beautiful d. The Beast/Alma Alvarez; Bambi d. LaGata; Queen's Court d. Desiree Petersen/Sindee Paradise; Medusa Miceli d. Nasty Linda; (FIGHT FOR THE NAME) Team America I (Misty Blue Simmes/Allison Royal) d. Team Am II (Heidi Lee Morgan/Comrade Orga); (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Jim Cornette w. Queen's Court. DRAW-PLUS.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) - Billy Black/Joel Deaton d. Avengers; (LPWA) Simmes d. Nasty Linda; (CALGARY/CLASSIC) Dynamite Kid d. Bruce Hart; Festus double DQ vs. Mad Dog Joe; Brute Force d. Chris Walker/Fabian when Barbie distracts ref. RESTHOLD.

(AAWF) - Bambi d. Peggy Lee Leathers; Joel Deaton d. Richie Dye. BOMB.

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(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Bobby Eaton d. Rip Rogers; P.N. News d. Mark Kyle; (RECAP) Brian Pillman-Barry Windham feud; (CONTROL CENTER/on all WCW shows) El Gigante-One Man Gang, Morton-Gibson feuds; Steiners d. Mike Thor/Hacksaw Higgins; [WNN] (CLASH XIV) Missy Hyatt d. Paul E. Dangerously in arm-wrestling match, Paul E. clobbers Jason Hervey; Gang d. Ian Weston; Dustin Rhodes d. Doug Gilbert; Sting d. Tim Frye & after, faces toss Nikita in ring & wild melee erupts; (VIDEO) Desperados at campfire (all WCW shows). RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Johnny B. Badd d. Rick Ryder; P.N.N. d. Dave Johnson; (RECAP) Sting-Koloff feud; (From WWW/WCW TV TITLE) Steve Austin d. Eaton to win belt when Jeannie Clarke claws Bobby's eyes in ref bump; Austin d. Ricky Nelson; Yellow Dog/Eaton d. Diamond Stud/Ric Flair by DQ when melee breaks loose. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT]: P.N.N. d. Nelson; Badd d. Santo; Stud d. Meadows; (WCW 6-MAN TAG TITLE) Freebirds/Badstreet d. Tommy Rich/Junkyard Dog to win belts (Morton refuses to wrestle w. Rich/JYD); (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. w. Flair; (WCW TV TITLE) Austin draw vs. Tom Zenk to retain belt. DRAW.

(WCW/SYN) - [WORLD WIDE]: Lex Luger d. Alan Martin; (REPLAY) Sting-Koloff saga; Young Pistols d. Pat Rose/Gene Spurlack; Badd d. Terry Bronson; (ANGLE) Badd/Long babbling during interview when P.N.N. runs them off; Hardliners d. Mike Jackson/Tim Parker; Gang/Blackblood d. Greg Sawyer/Kenny Kendall; (WCW TV TITLE) Austin d. Eaton to win belt. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[WCW PRO]: (Joined in progress in this area) Lex Luger d. Tom Mello; Yellow Dog d. Rogers; Eaton d. Johnny Meadows; (From WCW) Hardliners attack Rick Steiner; Other winners: Hardliners. NO RATING.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Lyle Alzado, FIRST PERSON, on his health problems from steroids: "I just hope this will convince junior high and high school kids that they can do without this stuff." 2. Jim Cornette, LPWA: "You know how you can tell which dressing room Alma Alvarez is using? It's the one with all the puddles because she's so dripping wet." 3. Bobby Heenan, PTW, on Koko B. Ware: "His mother's first name is Tupper." 4. Gorilla Monsoon, PTW: "Warlord's got a nice haircut if you're going to go to the chair." 5. Dave the Wave/Craig Johnson, UIW: (DW) "The Warpig comes from Hell's Kitchen." (CJ) "I had a friend who was a dishwasher there once." 6. Joe Pedicino/Scott Hudson, PW'91: (JP) "Brute Force has an album out." (SH) "Checking with my friends at the Butts County sheriff's office, I knew they had a record but I didn't know anything about an album." 7. Wave/Johnson, UIW: (D) "Kerry Davis biting." (CJ) "Isn't that what a rude dog is supposed to do?" 8. Hudson, PW'91 on Festus vs. Mad Dog Joe: "There's so much biting going on, I'd love to have the rabies test concession here at Sparkle's. There's more biting here than at the average McDonald's." 9. Wave, UIW, on Johnson: "You've heard of open-door policy for wrestlers. I guess we have an open-door policy for announcers." 10. Roddy Piper, WWP-SU, on Lou Spiccoli: "Looks like his parents built him a swing set facing the wall."

11. Hudson, PW'91, on Festus vs. Mad Dog Joe: "Last time these two met, not a lot of moves of the week." 12. Jim Ross, PH, to Paul E.: "You couldn't fire anything but your lips."

13. Johnson, UIW, on Warpig: "I wonder if he consulted Tammy Faye Bakker on his makeup." 14. Pedicino/Hudson, PW'91: (JP) "The LEGENDARY Eddie Sweat?" (SH) "I'm not a wrestler. When I'm a ring announcer, he can be The Universal Heartthrob Eddie Sweat, for all I care." 15. Johnson, UIW, on Black Ranger: "Thrasher's trying to turn him into the Black and Blue Ranger." 16. Vince McMahon, WWP-SU: "Spiccoli sounds like an Italian ice cream." 17. Ross, PH, on Kevin Sullivan: "Looks like Danny DeVito with a bad dye job." 18. Ross, PH, on One-Man Gang: "He weighed in at 412. Must have been on a livestock scale." 19. Pedicino, LPWA: "There's a beautiful suplex, as Gordon would tell us. Suplex to the rest of us." 20. Samuel P. Kent, WVEU: "We're giving away a lifesize aerobic-style jumprope, something you can use, Blackstone."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Alzado, FIRST PERSON, on his use of steroids: "Looking at myself now, I'm half the man I was." 2. Boni Blackstone, WVEU: "You know who (Steven) DeTruth reminds me of? Jason Hervey!" 3. William Costopolous, WHTN-TV:

"If a 400-pound bodybuilder was investigating me, I'd probably have jumped out the window."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Johnson, UIW: "When are wrestlers going to learn there's no time out (T.O.) in wrestling?" 2. Heenan, PTW: "You know what's good about ordering a pizza for the Rosattis? You don't have to cut it."

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. LUCY McEVIL (Jake Roberts on Lucifer). 2. GOONEY (Heenan on Sean Mooney). 3. PORKY (Johnson on Warpig). 4. THE SADDAM HUSSEIN OF THE USWA (Michael St. John on Tom Prichard). 5. P.N. SNOOZE (Steven DeTruth on P.N.N.)

BEST PICTURES - 1. WME, Jeannie Clarke pounding on Zenk outside ring. 2. WWP-SU, Bossman splash. 3. USWA, Tojo Yamamoto passing chain to Eric Embry.

MOST POIGNANT MOMENT - FIRST PERSON, Lyle Alzado being helped to walk by his wife.

PASSWORD OF THE WEEK - Lord Alfred Hayes, PTW: SADISTICAL. "He has a very SADISTICAL attitude." (Isn't it sadistic?)

"MISTER ED" THEME SONG IMITATION - Scott Hudson, WVEU: "No one can talk to Brute Force, of course."

BLOOPER AWARD - St. John, USWA: "...SGT. Terry Daniels." (A little increase in rank from PVT., hmm, Michael?)

MOST OBNOXIOUS COMMERCIAL - Dr. Mario "We've Got the Cure."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Heenan, PTW: "...fighting fire with fire." 2. Jim Neidhart, PTW: "...getting a little bit of his own medicine." 3. Wave, UIW: "...thrown everything but the kitchen sink." 4. McMahon, WWP-SU: "...through thick and thin." 5. St. John, USWA: "...fight fire with fire." 6. Eaton, WCW: "...cry over spilled milk." 7. Paul E., PH: "I ain't gonna touch that with a 10-foot pole."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - 1. USWA, for spelling the word "interference" INTERPERANCE. 2. Michael St. John, USWA, for calling Dundee-Prichard our "opening event on SUPERCARD," when it was the third match on CHALLENGE.

BOO AWARD - Prichard, WMC, for bodyslamming Kim Anthony. I can't believe we're going through another summer of this men-hitting-women stuff.

**KATZ MOVES SHOW
IN BALTIMORE**

WME Best in 6 Weeks

**PRIME TIME TAKES
SECOND STRAIGHT**

Despite perhaps its worst creative effort since its premiere, WWF PRIME TIME WRESTLING soared to its second straight win in the weekly Nielsen cable ratings. But PRIME TIME had to hold off a resurgence of WCW MAIN EVENT, despite WME's being mostly a repackaging of earlier syndicated fare.

PRIME TIME, guest hosted by Sean Mooney and with recycled Nasty Boys sketches and a weak Jake Roberts-Jimmy Hart angle, rolled to a 3.0 rating and 5 per cent share of audience, the first 5 share for PTW in more than two months. PRIME TIME gained 11% over its previous week's outing with Gene Okerlund.

WCW MAIN EVENT---which, with the exception of its DANGER ZONE and its Dustin Rhodes/Big Josh vs. Badstreet/Michael Hayes topliner, consisted strictly of matches from the same week's WCW PRO WRESTLING, rose to a 2.8 rating and strong 7 per cent share, the top numbers for WME in six weeks. WME was up 12% over its June 16 edition.

On the other hand, WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, POWER HOUR and WWF ALL-AMERICAN all went back on a downward spiral. Despite a respectable 6.3% share, the TBS Saturday night show dropped 4% in rating to a 2.4. ALL-AMERICAN slipped to its lowest mark in six weeks with a 2.2, down 16% from the previous Sunday. And POWER HOUR, though being an all first-run episode, dropped to a 1.4, tying its second-lowest mark of the season. POWER was down 13%.

All shows but WCW MAIN EVENT were down over year-ago ratings figures.

CABLE

Week Ending June 24	Rating/Share	Homes	Year Ago
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 6/24)	3.0/5.0	1.70 million	3.5/6.1
WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS 6/23)	2.8/7.0	1.60 million	2.5/6.1
WCW WORLD CHAMP. (TBS 6/22)	2.4/6.3	1.37 million	2.7/7.4
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 6/23)	2.2/7.4	1.25 million	2.3/7.6
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 6/22)	1.4/6.8	802,000	1.9/3.8

**MATWATCH
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BALTIMORE---Veteran wrestling talk show host Larry Katz is moving his weekly mat conversation to a new outlet.

Katz, who would have aired his second anniversary show on WCBM-AM in Baltimore July 13, will switch to WCAO-AM July 14. The show premieres at 10 p.m. for a two-hour weekly basis with Katz expected to review the evening's GREAT AMERICAN BASH as the prime topic.

"We've had a good run on WCBM," said Katz, "but we've had an ongoing problem concerning our share of the revenues and time on the station."

WCAO is considered a stronger outlet in the Baltimore area. Katz will be off the air again next Saturday. A number of regular Baltimore listeners bombarded Katz's replacement with calls wanting to know where PRO WRESTLING TALK was.

**ORBIT SPOTLIGHTS
PAY-CABLE WRESTLING**

VIENNA VA---ORBIT magazine spotlights pay-cable wrestling in its July edition, including a lengthy profile of former WCW world champion Sting.

Writer John Dunlap reviews both THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH and SUMMER SLAM. In an interview, Sting reflected on his early years as a heel and said, "Actually, my style and attitude have never really changed. I'm just a good guy who can be a bad guy when he needs to be."

In the magazine for satellite dish owners, fan Joe Brinkos Jr. of Reston VA says: "The WWF is all show. I really think the major events are more interesting as done by WCW because the matches are more competitive and last a good deal longer. In the WWF, if any match is over in 10 minutes, you see the wrestlers sucking for air."

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7/15/91

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BULLETIN: The WCW world heavyweight title was vacated Monday night in news conference to air Saturday, WCW chief Jim Herd announced the company to reach agreement with world champion Ric Flair on a 2-year contract (Flair reportedly rejected a \$350,000-a-year offer): Herd wished Flair "the best." Flair scheduled to lose the belt to Barry Windham but did not appear for the WCW